Statement on filing a complaint on an enforced disappearance case for the United Nations’ Working Team

Wednesday, March 27, 2019
The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

Citizen Ahmad Jnaid has been forcibly disappeared since 2012

SNHR has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the citizen, Ahmad Jnaid, from Baba Amr neighborhood in Homs city, a taxi driver, who was aged 43 at the time of his arrest. SNHR urged the UN body to demand that the Syrian authorities release him immediately. Mr. Jnaid was arrested arbitrarily on March 27, 2012, while passing through a checkpoint of the Syrian Regime forces. His fate remains unknown to SNHR as well as his family.

The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the disappearance of Ahmad Jnaid. SNHR has been unable to determine his fate, as have his family members, who fear that they may be arrested and tortured themselves if they continue to ask about his whereabouts and fate, as has happened in numerous previous cases.

SNHR has called on the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance to intervene and to demand that the Syrian authorities release Mr. Jnaid immediately, as well as to expedite investigations into the fate of thousands of other forcibly disappeared citizens whose whereabouts and current conditions must also be revealed.

Although the Syrian government is not a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, it is indisputably a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Enforced disappearance constitutes a violation of both instruments.

SNHR also confirmed that there are well-founded fears that many of those forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime since 2011 may have been subjected to torture and possibly killed in regime detention, with the number of citizens forcibly disappeared by the regime continuing to grow.